



NEWS RELEASE

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Respiratory Therapist Forges License and Is Prosecuted for Unauthorized Practice

Denver, Colorado -- A case involving Laura McCombs was presented for criminal prosecution by DORA's Division of Registrations and the Medicaid Fraud Unit of the Attorney General's Office. On March 10, 2010, McCombs plead guilty to Attempting to Influence a Public Servant (class 4 felony) and Unauthorized Practice as a Respiratory Therapist (class 2 misdemeanor). She was sentenced to two years probation, ordered to pay approximately \$1,700 in restitution to Littleton Adventist Hospital, and required to perform 96 hours of public service.

In October of 2008, Littleton Adventist Hospital submitted a complaint to DORA's Office of Respiratory Therapy Licensure against McCombs, who they believed had falsified documents to indicate she had a respiratory therapy license.

Further investigation showed that McCombs had forged an ALISON screen shot in an attempt to portray herself as a licensed respiratory therapist. ALISON (Automated Licensure Information System Online) is the website where the public can verify licensure for any of approximately 50 professions and occupations licensed and regulated by DORA's Division of Registrations. ALISON may be accessed through the following link: <https://www.doradls.state.co.us/alison.php> Additionally, one may access this database from DORA's home page at askdora.colorado.gov and click on Verify a License.

McCombs worked independently for a few days as a respiratory therapist before the hospital was able to verify that the documentation provided was forged. She had neither graduated from an approved respiratory school program, nor taken the licensure exam, prior to presenting the forged ALISON screen shot and beginning work as a respiratory therapist.

"This case is unfortunately becoming a trend possibly resulting from a downturned economy and higher unemployment rates," said Director of DORA's Division of Registrations Rosemary McCool. "It is more critical than ever for employers and consumers to visit DORA's website to verify active licensure or any disciplinary history we may have taken on a professional or business."

The Division of Registrations issued a cease and desist order to Laura McCombs in November of 2008. She also applied for licensure with DORA's Division of Registrations in 2009. The application for licensure was denied.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

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